

CEPPS/IRI QUARTERLY REPORT: January 1 – March 31, 2005
LIBERIA: POLITICAL PARTY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM
USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-10-0004-00
Total Budget: \$650,000 Expenses to Date: \$ 649,300.85
Project 7043

I. SUMMARY

Political circumstances in Liberia have crippled the development of the country's democratic political process. Democratic institutions are underdeveloped, unorganized, lacking of resources or in some cases, do not even exist. The upcoming October 2005 elections will be a test for Liberia's nascent political institutions and a critical step in the country's democratic progress. To assist Liberians in developing a democratic political process with the accompanying institutions and to contribute to transparent and peaceful elections in Liberia, IRI is implementing a program designed to strengthen the political and electoral processes in Liberia. Specifically, IRI focuses on the following objectives:

1. To improve political party capacity to implement voter-oriented, effective campaigns;
2. To enable political parties to develop long-term organizational development plans;
3. To strengthen political parties' ability to contribute to Liberia's governance; and
4. To promote party participation to ensure credible and peaceful electoral and political processes.

To meet these objectives during this quarter, IRI-Liberia conducted technical training workshops with Registered Political Parties (RPPs) in Liberia, organized political assessment missions with political parties in Monrovia and in three county capitals and held meetings with other stakeholders to discuss ways to achieve the aforementioned objectives. The political assessment mission in Monrovia took place in January. The assessment was a mid-term evaluation with twelve of the eighteen political parties and their respective executives at the national level. These consultations provided an opportunity for IRI to re-evaluate project activities and reconfirm the parties' commitment to the project. IRI's assessment mission to the counties (Bong, Tubmanburg and Gbanga) focused on political party activity and development in the counties. The goal was to assess the practicality of conducting training for the parties on the county level. In February, IRI and other stakeholders in the Electoral Process Working Group (EPWG) held meetings to discuss and analyze the development of Voter/Civic Education activities in Liberia. Also in February, IRI worked with local consulting firm Development Consultants to provide technical support to the political parties as they drafted the first-ever Code of Conduct (see Appendix) for political parties in the country. In March, IRI-Liberia held a training workshop for Liberia political parties on Inter-Party Cooperation. Lastly, in this quarter, IRI –Liberia collaborated with NDI-Liberia to host two civil society organization (CSO)/political party roundtables. The roundtables addressed the governance issues involved with sitting government officials who declare their candidacies for the upcoming elections.

II. BACKGROUND

Emerging from a legacy of authoritarianism and militarism, Liberia finds itself at a unique crossroads in its political history.

Under the Charles Taylor regime and throughout the previous administrations that governed Liberia, democratic institutions were systematically suppressed. The True Whig Party “exercised dictatorial control over all facets of life” from the country’s establishment in 1847 until 1980.¹ After taking power in a 1980 coup, the military regime of Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe relied “exclusively on the army to suppress its growing opponents.”² Civil war in 1990 led to Doe’s demise and engulfed the country until 1996. Following a victory in Liberia’s 1997 elections, Charles Taylor’s government repressed the legislature, judiciary, opposition political parties and the independent media.³ These oppressive circumstances instigated another civil war beginning in 1999 and ending in 2003 with Taylor stepping down and fleeing into exile.

With the departure of former president Charles Taylor, the installation of a transitional government and the presence of United Nations peacekeepers, Liberians have a unique opportunity to elect a representative government, rebuild their communities and improve their lives. Now, more than ever, political conditions exist that will allow Liberians to establish the democratic processes and institutions that were either absent or stifled in the past. Among the critical institutions requiring strengthening for the promotion of democratic participation are political parties.

As previously mentioned, successive oppressive governments limited meaningful political activities and participation. Opposition political parties who voiced dissenting opinions on government policies or openly recruited supporters often faced harassment, arrest or torture. The country’s history of civil war has also affected the political parties. With armed rebels, undisciplined government soldiers and militia throughout the country, insecurity largely confined political parties to Monrovia and gave them little opportunity to develop support bases in other counties. Liberia’s most recent conflict hindered the political parties by devastating their existing meager resources. As fighting reached Monrovia, it brought with it the pillaging that was devastating the rest of the country. The political party offices, like many homes and businesses in the city, fell victim to looters and lost the few resources they had (e.g., computers, fax machines, books, etc.). All of these circumstances have resulted in political parties with little or no institutional capacity, organizational structures or resources to contribute to democratic chance or to enhance the political vibrancy of the country.

Besides institutional and material deficiencies, Liberia’s political parties lack the political substance of developed party organizations. The majority of the registered eighteen political parties are “unable to articulate anything approaching a coherent [platform] or

¹ Paul Fitzgerald, Robert Herman and Gilbert M. Khadiagala, *Democracy and Governance Assessment of Liberia: Transition from a Frail State?* (A report submitted to the United States Agency for International Development in August 2004) 6.

² *Ibid.*, 7.

³ *Ibid.*, 12.

lay out a strategy for increasing political support.”⁴

IRI recognizes the necessity of developed political parties in a stable, pluralistic democracy. In the short-term, developed political parties will provide the Liberian electorate with legitimate options in the upcoming October 2005 elections. In the long-term, including the post-election period, developed political parties will provide a conduit through which constituent needs can influence public policy. Well-organized opposition parties will also serve as an effective check on and balance to the government.

In addition to developed political parties, successful elections are also critical to democratic development. Although transparent and peaceful elections in and of themselves do not necessarily represent the pinnacle of democratic progress, they can certainly move a country toward that goal. Fraudulent or violent elections can similarly hinder a country’s democratic development. Given Liberia’s fragile democracy, it is critical that the October 2005 elections succeed. Well-trained domestic and international election observers will be critical to that success.

III. QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

Political Assessment

In early January, IRI-Liberia conducted a two-day assessment in Nimba and Bong counties to assess the logistical needs of political parties and the level of political activity in both counties. In the course of the assessment, IRI-Liberia held meetings with stakeholders, partners and political party representatives in both counties. The discussions helped IRI-Liberia identify the key areas on which to focus its county-level Political Party Workshops. In addition, the assessment determined that Gbarnga, the capital of Bong County, could be the most suitable venue to begin the county-level Political Party Workshops. Notwithstanding, the assessments also revealed that inadequacies of the parties at the national level are proliferated at the county level, with county level party officials being more dissociated and unfamiliar with party platform, ideologies or policies. Also the number of active parties visible in these counties averaged only three out of the eighteen registered political parties in Liberia. Due to the widespread destruction of nearly two decades of armed conflict, limited logistical and administrative capacities pose also considerable challenges to effectively conducting trainings at the county level.

Coordination

IRI-Liberia hosted the first 2005 meeting between the USAID Implementing Partners and the *Electoral Process Working Group (EPWG)*. The meetings were attended by USAID Liberia Mission Director, Dr. Wilbur Thomas along with all the relevant other

⁴ *Ibid.*, 33.

stakeholders. The meeting was held to brief USAID of programmatic activities and the focus of Liberian stakeholders for 2005. At the meeting, the USAID Mission Director stressed the importance of continued coordination and cooperation by all those involved in the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of Liberia.

IRI-Liberia also held a consultative meeting with Liberia's National Election Commission (NEC) and the nation's political parties on a draft *Terms of Reference (ToR)* for a proposed Inter-Party Coordination Committee. At the meeting, IRI and other participants made critical recommendations for changes to the *ToR*. In mid-January, the Country Directors for IRI-Liberia and NDI-Liberia also met with leaders of the Inter-Religious Council (IRC) to discuss how the IRC can contribute to Liberia's electoral process. IRC will be invited to attend and contribute to the Inter-Party Coordination Committee meetings. The Council has been and continues to be a vocal advocate for reducing the number of political parties.

Party Consultations

IRI-Liberia conducted two-weeks of follow-up consultations with eleven of eighteen RPPs in January. The seven remaining parties either failed to meet at the scheduled time/place or were unavailable at subsequently scheduled appointments. The objectives of the consultations were to assess the impact of IRI-Liberia's technical trainings on the parties and to evaluate the utilization of this training within the parties. The consultations also gave IRI-Liberia an opportunity to gauge the needs of future training workshops and other activities while gathering the respective parties' perceptions about the current political developments in Liberia. In the course of the consultations, IRI-Liberia noted that the political parties' activities are still very limited to Monrovia and its immediate environs, which poses challenges for IRI-Liberia's county-level training. IRI-Liberia also observed that all the parties continue to face significant challenges: funding constraints, unarticulated platforms and ideologies, the absence of effective internal communication and structure mechanisms and the lack of authority and motivation to propagate internal training. The political party consultations with RPPs were conducted with the following parties: Liberian People's Party (LPP), Liberia Action Party (LAP), Reformation Alliance Party (RAP), Liberia Equal Rights Party (LERP), National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL), Unity Party (UP), National Patriotic Party (NPP), Liberian National Union (LINU), Free Democratic Party, (FDP), United Peoples Party (UPP) and The New Deal Movement (NDM).

FEBRUARY

Code of Conduct

IRI-Liberia partnered with local consulting firm Development Consultants to work with the Technical Working Committee (TWC) formed by Liberia's political parties to compose a Code of Conduct. With work commencing on February 14, IRI, Development Consultants and TWC began drafting the Code and on February 25, submitted a draft to Liberia's National Election Commission (NEC), political parties and other stakeholders

for review and input. In addition, IRI-Liberia hosted a Q & A workshop to answer questions and take comments from stakeholders about the draft Code of Conduct. The code was finalized on March 14 and is to be signed, adopted and endorsed in April 2005.

Coordination

IRI-Liberia continued to meet with the USAID Implementing Partners and the EPWG committee. This month's meeting focused on the resettlement and reintegration of Liberia's Internally Displaced People. The issue of coordination existing between NEC, the UN and other implementing partners were flagged. The group also highlighted funding concerns specific to the voter registration exercise. To help resolve these concerns, an activities matrix was developed and shared among partners.

On February 16, 2004, IRI-Liberia hosted USAID's Assistant Administrator for Africa, Mr. Lloyd Pierson. Along with the CEPPS partners, the meeting was attended by the USAID's Mission Director for Liberia and the U.S. Embassy's Political Counselor. The CEPPS partners presented a brief overview of their respective programs; however, the majority of the meeting was spent discussing issues related to the electoral process and the challenges to meeting the election deadline of October 11, 2005. All partners continued to voice concerns over coordination of activities at the NEC and with UNMIL, especially the electoral division.

Following initial discussions in January, IRI-Liberia along with NDI-Liberia, IFES-Liberia, the EC and UNMIL witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NEC and the RPPs. With this MOU, the Inter-Party Consultative Committee was formally established. Chaired by the NEC, the IPCC coordinates activities between the NEC and registered political parties and serves as a consultative forum to discuss and resolve issues related to the elections and the parties. International advisors will also be invited to attend IPCC meetings.

MARCH

Workshop

In March, IRI-Liberia conducted a three-day workshop on Inter-Party Cooperation for Liberia's RPPs. The workshop was attended by representatives of eleven out of eighteen registered political parties. On hand to facilitate the training was Hon. Noah Wekesa, a longstanding member of the Kenyan Parliament and a founding member of the ruling National Rainbow Coalition of Kenya. Hon. Wekesa's practical knowledge of the techniques and skills of coalition building provided tremendous expertise to the participants' understanding of effective coalition techniques and structures. This workshop was particularly significant given Liberian political parties' historical inability to form meaningful coalitions and the public calls for fewer political parties that have already been a part of this election season.

Roundtables

IRI, in coordination with NDI, facilitated a roundtable with leaders of political parties and civil society organizations in Liberia. The roundtable theme was, “Political Aspirants, Incumbency and the 2005 Elections” and came in response to mounting public concerns over allegations of rampant corruption and the wanton abuse of public resources in the current transitional government. The theme addressed the most prominent allegation of the abuse of state power by incumbent officials who have declared their aspirations to contest the October 2005 election. Over 60 representatives from political parties and CSOs participated. Overwhelmingly, the participants called on all aspirants to resign from public office to create a more level playing field for all aspirants.

Due to the great interest in the subject matter and to disseminate the discussion to a wider segment of the population, IRI and NDI hosted a second roundtable where leaders of political parties and civil society participated in a local radio talk show to discuss the same theme, “Aspirants and the 2005 Election: Should they Resign; Why and When?” Panelists and callers suggested that the general public believes most of the low-profile aspirants for the presidency should rescind their candidacy to increase the credibility of the electoral process. Participating on the talk show were Mr. Worlea-Saywah Dunah, Secretary General of the New Deal Movement (NDM) and Mr. Aloysius Toe, Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy (FOHRD).

Coordination

On March 16, 2005, IRI-Liberia attended the first Inter-Party Consultative Committee meeting. Also in attendance were representatives of five of Liberia’s political parties, along with representatives of IFES-Liberia, NEC, the EC and UNMIL’s Electoral Division. The meeting highlighted the following the issues: The delimitation of electoral districts, party and candidate campaigning, NEC complaints procedures, voter registration and observation, voter education, establishment of party offices and media coverage of elections. The participants in the meeting established important guidelines to shape the aforementioned highlighted issues which will be important as the country prepares for its October 2005 elections.

Also in March, UNMIL hosted the monthly EPWG meeting which IRI-Liberia and other stakeholders attended. The key topic of the meeting was Voter Registration/Education. Most of the participants stressed the lack of sufficient, consistent and clear information on Voter Registration/Education by UNMIL and NEC in Liberia. IRI-Liberia also raised political parties’ concern about some campaign restrictions imposed by the NEC. The restrictions prohibit the parties from using the airwaves to discuss their platforms and ideologies. There is growing concern among several stakeholders and political party leaders that the electorate will not be adequately informed on parties and candidates, thus limiting voters’ abilities to make informed choices on polling day.

IV. EVALUATION

1. Result: To improve political party capacity to implement voter-oriented, effective campaigns;

IRI-Liberia's workshop this quarter on Inter-Party Cooperation provided political parties the opportunity to learn about and explore partnerships that would help them to better address the needs of voters in the campaign season. Coalition-building is necessary and important in an electoral environment such as Liberia, where there are eighteen political parties, fifty-plus presidential aspirants and as many as twenty new parties seeking NEC recognition. IRI-Liberia's training helped the parties understand the usefulness of coalitions to better achieve their goals. The training focused on lessons learned from the past, as well as establishing new guidelines for cooperation to facilitate current inter-party collaborative negotiations.

2. Result: To enable political parties to develop long-term organizational development plans;

IRI-Liberia's technical training workshop on Inter-Party Cooperation provided tools and organizational development strategies that will benefit the political parties long after the 2005 elections. Building coalitions and inter-party cooperation is equally critical after elections as it is during an election season. The training received by political parties at the workshop will assist parties to build their coalition structures and establish other linkages with each other after the election. Political party representatives involved in the Inter-Party Cooperation workshop expressed the importance of this training to their long-term development and even extended the training to receive more counsel from IRI's trainer. Participants at the workshop recognized that coalition-building and effective inter-party cooperation can help diffuse the "winner-take-all" mentality that permeates Liberian political culture.

3. Result: To strengthen political parties' ability to contribute to Liberia's governance;

IRI-Liberia's ongoing consultations with Liberia's political parties have provided the Institute with critical feedback on ways to strengthen the parties' abilities to contribute to governance. Additionally, IRI's continual facilitation of activities between political parties and state structures, such as the National Election Commission, and civil society groups has allowed political parties to add valuable input to governance in Liberia.

IRI-Liberia's assistance to political parties was also essential in producing a draft Code of Conduct. The code establishes the rules of engagement and the moral principles of acceptable behavior for political parties, candidates and supporters throughout the electoral process. The Code of Conduct is a significant milestone in contributing to the creation of more level playing field for parties and candidates and the first of its kind in Liberia. The Code enabled political parties and other stakeholders, including the NEC and civil society, to agree to certain guidelines, rules and procedures related to the electoral process. The active involvement of political parties and other key stakeholders

in establishing these guidelines to govern the electoral allowed for an open, consultative and transparent process.

The two roundtables that IRI co-sponsored also provided the political parties the opportunity to contribute to the public discussion on the governance issues related to the abuse of state power by incumbent officials who have declared their aspirations to contest the October 2005 election.

4. Result: To promote party participation to ensure credible and peaceful electoral and political processes.

IRI-Liberia's activities this quarter has promoted the participation of political parties to ensure credible and peaceful electoral and political processes. IRI's assistance and facilitation of the draft Code of Conduct and the Institute's involvement in establishing the Inter-Party Consultative Committee has fostered a transparent political atmosphere in which political party participation is an essential component.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In April 2005, the CEPPS partners in Liberia will host a three-day Stakeholders Consultative Forum, "Promoting Peaceful and Legitimate Elections in Liberia." The overall goal for this consultative forum is to invite national and international election stakeholders and build consensus on ideas to meet the challenges of achieving peaceful and legitimate elections. More specifically, the forum seeks to accomplish the following: (a) engage stakeholders to publicly express and debate their roles and responsibilities in achieving peaceful and legitimate elections; (b) build agreement among stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in achieving peaceful and legitimate elections; (c) call on stakeholders to declare their commitment to achieving peaceful and legitimate elections. The forum will consist of a series of panel lectures followed by plenary discussions and the presentation of key points and recommendations relevant to the following five cross-cutting electoral themes: (1) Administration of Elections, (2), Electoral Security, (3) Encouraging Electoral Participation, (4), Election Campaigning and (5) The Challenges and the Way Forward. Stakeholders invited to the forum include: NTGL Executive, Legislative and Judiciary Branches, the NEC and all National Commissions, and the international community, including the UN, ECOWAS, the EC and the USG, as well as a host of national CSOs and media practitioners. The Code of Conduct for Political Parties will be signed and endorsed at the closing ceremony of this forum.

In response to the parties' request for a Training of Trainers on voter registration, IRI will facilitate training in April to inform the parties on the procedures, guidelines and importance of the voter registration exercise. In addition, IRI intends to conduct trainings for political parties in Party Financing as well as on Women and Youth in Politics. IRI also intends to work with a local partner and conduct an initial focus group research exercise. It is anticipated that the results of the focus group research will reveal some of prevailing concerns of Liberians and help the parties craft more responsive platforms and effective policies to address these concerns.

APPENDIX

LIBERIA

**POLITICAL PARTIES’
CODE OF CONDUCT, 2005**

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I. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Code:

- “Party” means an entity duly registered with the NEC of Liberia in accordance with Article 78 of the Constitution.
- “Parties” means two or more of the aforementioned entities.
- “Candidate” means an individual contesting office during the 2005 elections.
- “National Elections Commission” hereinafter “NEC” means the National Elections Commission of Liberia.
- “Inter-Party Consultative Committee” hereinafter “IPCC” refers to that body established on 25 February 2005 between signatory Political Parties and NEC.
- “The Code” or “this Code” means the Liberia Political Parties’ Code of Conduct, 2005.
- “Constitution” refers to the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.
- Public Resources refers to all property held in trust for the collective use of Citizens of Liberia, including but not limited to Government of Liberia property, state-owned corporations and all other resources not privately held.

II. PREAMBLE

The roots of a thriving democracy are to be found in justice, domestic peace and within the welfare of the people, stability and rule of law as well as through non-discretionary compliance by all stakeholders with electoral laws and regulations. Equally vital is equality of access to political opportunities for all Political Parties facilitated by the existence of a level playing field to promote free, fair and credible elections and the acceptance of certified results from the polls.

Recognizing that inclusiveness, tolerance, transparency and pluralism are necessary for an effective democracy, and determined to realize the objectives of a model democracy and to consolidate democratic governance in our homeland, we, the Political Parties of Liberia, do individually, collectively and voluntarily adopt for ourselves, this Code of Conduct to govern our activities and foster the establishment of genuine democracy in our country. We hereby pledge to one another and to the people of Liberia, to promote and uphold the guidelines and principles of this Code. We acknowledge the authority of the NEC in regard to the exercise of its constitutional and statutory powers and undertake to facilitate the Commission’s mandate.

III. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

Whereas, prior to the adoption of This Code, no code of conduct for Political Parties has been adopted to establish and acknowledge a minimum standard of acceptable behavior for Political Parties and their supporters and to safeguard against political violence, intimidation and manipulation;

Appreciating the binding nature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 18 August 2003, the presence and assistance of the international community, the political parties of Liberia hereby voluntarily commit to this Code to enable Liberians to exercise their constitutional rights to democratically elect their public officials;

All parties hereby agree unequivocally to adopt and adhere, in its entirety, to this Code and by so doing commit to contribute to free, fair, transparent and credible elections;

The parties hereby commit to this Code voluntarily realizing that compliance shall not be discretionary.

IV. DEMOCRATIC RELEVANCE

Democracy exists within a legal context underpinned by fairness, the rule of law, freedom to express divergent opinions, equality of access to opportunities and through adherence to constitutional provisions that stipulate the rights and responsibilities of the citizen;

Democracy inculcates respect for human rights, the pursuit of civil and political liberties, the tolerance of divergent opinions, the full and active participation of women in the political process and the inclusion of the various religious and ethnic segments of society;

Democracy legitimizes government through an electoral process to select public officials, which is conducted at regular intervals and is accentuated by the informed choice of voters, who are able to cast their ballot freely, without interference, fear, intimidation or bribery;

Through the acknowledgment and promotion of the above mentioned ideals, political parties of Liberia willfully pledge to support this Code of Conduct and the principles stated herein.

V. RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES OF LIBERIA PURSUANT TO THE FORMULATION OF A POLITICAL PARTIS CODE OF CONDUCT (2005)

We, representatives of Political Parties in Liberia:

Determined to uphold and defend Liberia's 1986 Constitution and its democratic ideals;

Committed to the promotion and development of peaceful and stable political, economic and social conditions in Liberia;

Compelled to transform our country from its current state of deterioration to an inspiration within the sub-region and the continent as a whole;

United in our commitment to the growth and development of responsible multiparty democracy, and to the decentralization of the political powers in our country in place of the authoritarian political power center that generally contributed to the dysfunctional state system and governance;

Determined to build lasting democratic self-governance for present and future generations of Liberians;

Resolved to voluntarily uphold this Code regulating the conduct of Political Parties and maintain the benchmarks of permissible behavior of parties, during and between elections;

Agreed that the formulation of this Code marks the beginning of a new era of partnership between the Political Parties of Liberia and the citizens of Liberia, to promote and deepen democracy in Liberia;

Held a series of consultative sessions during the month of February 2005 to formulate this inaugural Political Parties Code of Conduct 2005, with the active support and participation of the NEC, Political Parties and other stakeholders in the electoral process;

Committed to the dissemination of this Code to our respective party members and supporters throughout our constituencies;

Resolved that respective political parties and candidates subscribe to the following terms and provisions:

1. To adhere to all existing laws pertaining to the conduct of Political Parties in the upcoming elections, especially those provisions of the elections guidelines established by the NEC through the authority of the Electoral Reform Law published by authority on 23rd of December 2004.
2. Political Parties shall not obstruct, disrupt, break-up meetings or cause to be broken up, meetings, rallies or other activities organized by other Political Parties; nor should they interrupt or prevent speeches and the distribution of handbills, leaflets, and the pasting of posters by other Parties.

3. Political Parties shall not destroy, remove, deface or in any way tamper with the paraphernalia, logos, symbols, handbills and publicity materials of other Political Parties.
4. Political Parties shall desist from carrying and/or displaying arms and offensive weapons at political and related activities and shall extend co-operation to law enforcement agencies and authorities, particularly for the purpose of recovery of illegal arms.
5. Political Parties shall not exercise undue influence, or take extra legal measures for the release of any person arrested for carrying arms or offensive weapons during the electoral period.
6. Political parties shall not engage, recruit or deploy any individual(s) for the purpose of violence, intimidation or harassment.
7. Political Parties shall, in good faith coordinate their campaign activities in such a way that no two political parties shall hold public meetings or rallies at the same venue and/or locality on the same day, if such meetings or rallies are likely to be at venues so close to each other that a possibility of conflict arises.
8. Where dates, venue and timing for any of the above activities conflict, representatives of the affected Political Parties shall, in collaboration with the local authorities, meet in a cordial manner to resolve issues without resorting to violence.
9. Political Parties shall not utilize public resources for party activities and shall not permit any of its sponsored candidates holding public office to use public office for the purposes of political campaigning in elections.
10. Political Parties shall avoid all activities constituting electoral offences as defined by Liberian law.
11. Political Parties shall suspend election related activities and shall not hold public meetings or rallies within the polling precincts on polling day and within 24 hours of the polls.
12. Political Parties shall not resort to the use of abusive, profane or inflammatory language or incitement; specifically, all Political Parties shall refrain from incitement on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, creed, sect or any other criterion.
13. Political Parties shall not plagiarize the platforms, symbols, slogans and paraphernalia of other Political Parties.
14. Political Parties shall not obstruct, harass or intimidate journalists nor shall parties abuse, insult or threaten election officials and workers for actions taken and decisions reached in line with their official duties.
15. Political Parties shall respect the rights and freedom of other parties to campaign and to disseminate their political ideals and principals without fear, intimidation or harassment.

16. The use of churches, mosques, temples, or other places of divine worship as well as the use of traditional and cultural practices, shall not deny others of their right of political participation and expression;
17. Political Parties and candidates shall ensure that their agents and officials are sufficiently trained for voter registration, polling day and other election related activities.
18. Political Parties shall recognize and acknowledge the rights of accredited observers and monitors at polling stations for the purpose of observing the conduct of elections.
19. Political Parties undertake to work with the NEC to create an atmosphere conducive to free and fair voting, thereby refraining from coercion, threats, fear, intimidation and reappraisals.
20. Political Parties shall refrain from fraudulently procuring results and votes by invasion and forcible occupation of polling centers, the manipulation or corruption of ballot boxes, tally sheets or by any other unlawful means.
21. Political Parties undertake to instruct their supporters, representatives and agents in attendance at polling stations to perform their duties in accordance with the electoral laws and regulations and to cooperate with election officials for the efficient, transparent and uninterrupted administration of elections.

VI. PARTIES COMMIT TO ACCEPT CERTIFIED RESULTS

Political Parties undertake to amicably resolve all complaints in compliance with existing Liberian law and to accept the certified results of the elections.

VII. ENFORCEMENT

1. When there is a breach of any of the provisions of this Code, the Political Party adversely affected shall, as a first option, report the breach to the offending Political Party and shall seek to amicably resolve the dispute.
2. Where a dispute arising out of a breach of the provision of this Code is not amicably resolved, it may be reported to the IPCC which shall give a fair and expeditious hearing to the Political Parties involved in the form of reprimands that may be recommended to NEC for further consideration. Repeat violations will be reported to the proper authorities including but not limited to the Supreme Court.
3. The above remedies are without prejudice to the rights of victims to pursue other legal action.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION

Every Political Party shall ensure that this Code is made fully known to its members and supporters, and that it is fully observed. In addition, the Political Parties have undertaken to publicize the Code to the general Public by all means available to them.

IX. SIGNATURE PAGE

This Code was adopted by Political Parties of Liberia this _____ day of _____, 2005

For: All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: National Patriotic Party (NPP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: Free Democratic Party (FDP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: National Reformation Party (NRP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: Liberia Action Party (LAP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: New Deal Movement (New Deal) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: Liberia Equal Rights Party (LERP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: People's Democratic Party of Liberia (PDPL) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: Liberia National Union (LINU) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: Progressive People's Party (PPP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: Labor Party of Liberia (LPL) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: Reformation Alliance Party (RAP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title

For: Liberia Peoples' Party (LPP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: True Whig Party (TWP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: Liberia Unification Party (LUP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: Unity Party (UP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title
For: National Democratic Party Of Liberia (NDPL) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title	For: United Peoples' Party (UPP) _____ Principal Name/Title _____ Witness Name/Title

Signed in the presence of and endorsed by:

For: The National Elections Commission
Liberia

Name/Title

For: International Republican Institute

Name/Title

For: Civil Society Coalitions (2 representatives):

Name/Title

For: United Nations Mission in

Name/Title

For: Development Consultants

Name/Title

Name/Title